



Knight Commission

On Intercollegiate Athletics

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PRESIDENTIAL CONTROL AND LEADERSHIP

- NCAA governance was restructured to put presidents in charge (mid-90s)
- Increased presidential authority for athletics on campus and in conferences (mid-90s)

FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

- Financial controls strengthened by requiring all funds raised to go through university's central financial controls (1990s)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Individual eligibility academic standards strengthened; progress toward degree (1990s)
- Team and institutional accountability measures developed (2004)

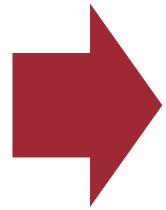
Historical Impact



**Greater academic
accountability**

- Teams must be on track to graduate 50% of players to be eligible for postseason championships (2001 and 2010 Knight Commission recommendations; NCAA adopted in 2011)

Impact



More Division I athletes are graduating

1984 freshmen athletes – 52% federal grad rate

2017 federal grad rate for DI athletes is 68%; athletes' rate is 2% higher than student body

2017 NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) is 87% (GSR is a different methodology than federal rate)

Impact



➤ **Priority of education**

- ✓ **Treat athletes as students first**
- ✓ **Align incentives with educational values**

➤ **Imperative of athletes' health, safety and well-being**

➤ **Financial responsibility**

➤ **Integrity**

Values that should guide NCAA, conferences and institutions



I. Treat Athletes as Students First – Not As Professionals

- Ensure that the academic experience remains at the forefront
- Reduce athletic time demands/more time for internships, career development (*NCAA changed rules on time demands in 2017; more changes still needed*)
- Multiyear scholarships (*NCAA rule change in 2012*)
- Degree completion benefits (*Many schools ramped up efforts in this area after 2011; Aug. 2018 NCAA adopted new rule requiring degree completion benefits for DI basketball players.*)

Prior Knight Commission recommendations



II. Realign Incentives with Educational Values

- Adopt academic threshold for postseason eligibility to ensure championship teams on track to graduate at least 50% of players (*NCAA adopted 2011*)
- Reduce emphasis on winning in NCAA revenue distribution and reward academic outcomes (*NCAA adopted major change in Oct. 2016. As a result between 2019 and 2032, more than **\$1.1 billion** will be rewarded to institutions for the academic and graduation success of their teams.*)

Prior Knight Commission recommendations



Current Initiatives:

- Governance. NCAA should add independent directors to its highest governing board and to its Division I Board of Directors.
- Integrity and Financial Transparency.
 - NCAA should adopt new measures for income that NCAA institutions and their employees — particularly coaches — receive from shoe, equipment, and apparel companies.
 - Knight Commission publishes athletics financial data for NCAA Division I public institutions.
- Student-Athlete Education and Development. NCAA should develop minimal professional standards that coaches will be required to meet to ensure they are prepared to protect student-athletes' health and wellbeing, and for their roles as educators.
- College Football Playoff (CFP). Add independent directors (including former players) to Governance of CFP, which is independent of NCAA. Require a portion of annual CFP revenues to support national health and safety initiatives and leadership diversity efforts in football.



Resources and tools provided by others to enhance athletics leadership and oversight:

- ✓ Knight Commission endorses the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities (AGB) recently released ***Statement on Governing Boards' Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics.***
- ✓ Knight Commission recommends that presidents and boards annually review institutional data in the **NCAA's Institutional Performance Program (IPP)**. This underutilized database provides data to help schools assess their athletics departments' performance in key areas like academics, gender equity, and diversity.

Resources

www.knightcommission.org

www.spendingdatabase.knightcommission.org

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